

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1 and 3-16 will be pending.

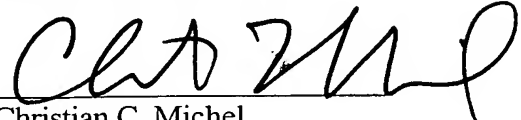
Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1 and 3-15 are allowed. Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,892,575 to Choi.

The Examiner argues that the loading gear and elastic rod of Choi are “fixedly attached” to one another and are therefore “integrally formed” as recited in claim 16. Claim 16 has been amended to recite an iron core disposed in the elastic rod along the length direction. Even accepting, in arguendo, the Examiner’s position, Choi neither describes nor suggests an iron rod element disposed in the elastic rod. Accordingly, claim 16 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Choi. The new element has been previously considered by the examiner in allowed claims 10 and 15, and accordingly does not require an additional search. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment.

Appl. No. 10/679,380
Amdt. Dated April 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 28, 2005

In view of the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Michel', written over a horizontal line.

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Dated: April 28, 2006